



# I-90 Hyak to Easton Project

*EAST OF SNOQUALMIE PASS*

August 2001

Issue 5

## Project Update

- \* Public Meetings Canceled
- \* Project Alternatives Narrowed
- \* Contact Us

### **Public Meetings Canceled**

The public meetings that were tentatively scheduled for this summer/fall have been put on hold until further notice. Group presentations can be scheduled for interested parties. As a minimum, Public Hearings will be held in the Spring of 2003, following the issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Project Alternatives Narrowed**

The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) has been meeting monthly to discuss various project alternatives. Two alternatives that had been discussed during scoping, the Rampart Ridge Route and the Split Route, are no longer under development as recommended by the IDT.

The Rampart Ridge Route realigned the entire freeway to the northeast of the existing corridor from Hyak to Stampede Pass Interchange. The Split Route realigned the eastbound lanes southwest of lake Keechelus along the John Wayne Trail.

Technical Memorandums, that will become part of the EIS, are currently being written, discussing the reasons why the above two alternatives have been considered, but rejected.

Environmental studies are ongoing to determine what impacts the proposed

alternatives would have on the environment. The following studies are underway:

- \*Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- \*Aquatic Species
- \*Wildlife and Forest Resources
- \*Wetlands
- \*Water Quality
- \*Hydraulics and Hydrology
- \*Air Quality
- \*Noise
- \*Hazardous Waste

Two other studies are about to be started:

- \*Recreation/4(f) Evaluation
- \*Archeological, Historical and Cultural Resources.

Common route alternatives that follow the existing alignment are the only ones that are currently under development. The project has been divided into five sections. Each of the sections has several options that address the project needs to varying degrees. The different options of each section can be seen on the project web site.

### **New and Improved Web Site**

The project web site has been revamped and updated. Check out the various options proposed for each section.

## **Tunneling Studies**

It has become apparent that constructing a tunnel through the tight curves along Lake Keechelus is a viable option that meets the project purpose and needs. To this end, we are studying the feasibility of a tunnel through this area.

We are looking into issues such as; construction techniques, ventilation, fire suppression, monitoring systems, lighting, drainage requirements, maintenance, and emergency escape routes.

## **Timeline of projected EIS activities**

Draft EIS-Notice of Publication April 2003  
45 day Public Comment Period

Public Hearing May 2003  
Review of Public Testimony  
Revision of Draft

Final EIS – Notice of Publication Sept. 2003  
Release of Final EIS

## **IN WRITING:**

Paul Gonseth, Project Engineer  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
PO Box 12560  
Yakima, WA 98909-2240

## **E-MAIL:**

Send us e-mail with your questions, comments or concerns at:

**I90Snoq@wsdot.wa.gov**

## **TOLL FREE TELEPHONE:**

Call the project office and leave a message, hear updates, or access general information at:

**1-888-535-0738**

## **WEBSITE:**

Visit the project web site for information about route alternatives, project background, public meeting announcements, and more at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects)

**Paul J. Gonseth, P.E.**  
**Department of Transportation**  
**2809 Rudkin Road/P.O. Box 12560**  
**Yakima, WA 98909-2560**